

Hedgehogs on the Park

What strange winter weather it has been so far. At the time of writing (mid-February) it has been milder than usual and quite wet.

Of course, hedgehogs should normally be hibernating but perhaps the unseasonal warmer weather has brought a few out in search of food.



This little fellow paid a visit to my garden at dusk on a mild day just before Christmas 2021.

As there is little natural food for them during winter, I put out a bowl of kitten biscuits which it tucked into enthusiastically.

Hopefully it will survive hibernation and be back to see me in the spring.

If you've seen any hedgehogs this winter, please let me know.

Even if you haven't seen actual hedgehogs, you may have seen their calling card (poo!) and wondered what deposited it.



This is what it looks like. It's black, torpedo-shaped, soft and usually no longer than an inch (2.5cm).

If you look closely (and maybe even dissect it!) you should see the indigestible remnants of its food: beetles, earwigs, woodlice, and other invertebrates.

Hedgehogs are officially classified as 'vulnerable to extinction' in the Red List for British Mammals; their decline is largely due to loss of habitat and suitable environment.

However, we can all do our bit around the Park to help them. Don't be too tidy in your garden - leave undergrowth, piles of leaves, log stacks, woodpiles, and patches of long grass, etc., undisturbed.

As they emerge from hibernation in early spring, they'll be looking in such places as those are where their favourite creepy-crawly foods live - and they're a lot cheaper than cat biscuits!

If you are interested in helping hedgehogs thrive on Delamere Park, there's lots of useful information on the internet - here are two good websites where you can find out more:

<https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/how-help-hedgehogs>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org>

And if you wish to share news with me about your hedgehog sightings or anything else hedgehog-related, please send me an email to parkhogs@gmail.com

If you don't have access to the internet and would like to help, please leave a request with Reception and I will get some printed leaflets to you.

Thanks for reading; I'll post an update in the June Newsletter.

Ken Blakemore



Guide to your Park Activities

Ballroom Dancing	weekly	Sunday (18:00 – 19:00)
Children's Swimming	twice weekly	Tues (16:00 – 19:00), Sat (13:15 – 16:15)
Coffee Mornings	monthly Oct - Mar	1 st Thursday (10:30 – noon) 3 rd Monday (10:30 – noon)
Film Nights	monthly	3 rd Thursday (19:30)
Folk Club	twice monthly	1 st & 3 rd Monday (19:30)
Gardening Club	monthly	4 th Monday (20:00)
Indoor Bowls	weekly	Tuesday (20:00 – 22:00)
Ladies' Club	monthly	2 nd Monday (20:00)
Mah Jongg	twice monthly	2 nd & 4 th Thursday (13:30)
Park PALS	monthly	3 rd Thursday (14:30)
Pure Stretch	weekly	Thursday (9:30 – 10:00)
Water Aerobics	weekly	Wednesday (10:30 – 11:30)
Whist	monthly	1 st or 2 nd Saturday (19:00)
Yoga	weekly	Tuesday (13:30 – 15:15)
Zumba	weekly	Thursday (19:00 – 20:00), except Film Nights

For more details on activities see page 2, also the Clubhouse notice board or ask at Reception for group contact details.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee



2nd June - 5th June



Community Groups aim to organise lots of activities on the Park to celebrate this momentous occasion.

As this is a community event, we hope as many residents as possible will get involved by offering their help in organising.

The last event of this type was 10 years ago when we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, however times have moved on and we would welcome any new ideas and especially some input from younger residents on what activities they would like including in the celebrations.

The next Community Group meeting will be on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm in the Park Room, when we will start discussions on what each group would like to contribute. Following that we will organize another meeting devoted to planning activities to cover 2nd - 5th June with the main event being planned for Saturday 4th June.

If you would like to come along to our meeting on 9th March you are very welcome but if you can't make that then we will let you know when the follow up planning meeting is to be held.

If you can offer any ideas or help of any kind, please email: community@delamerepark.co.uk or leave your contact details at Reception, fao: Community Groups (Queen's Jubilee).



Delamere Park Folk Club



Since its formation in July 2021 the Club has continued to meet at 7.30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. New talent emerges at almost every meeting and the Club's substantial following continues to grow.

There's no membership fee - you just turn up! It's a family-friendly social event - a great fun evening with the Park Room set up to mimic the atmosphere of a Cafe-bar. A splendid venue ready to welcome residents and their guests either as performers or audience.

Today's Folk Clubs have certainly spread their wings since the sixties and now encourage most of the performing arts. You'll find traditional and modern folk, pop, jazz and blues music, raconteurs, poets and more.

You might be a practised or burgeoning artist; or even a closet-artist (a "bedroom-guitarist" or a secret poet, or perhaps a photographer)? If so this could be your opportunity to share your skill in a friendly, receptive, enjoyable and non-judgemental forum.

Need more information? e-mail: folkclub@delamerepark.co.uk

Delamere Forest 41 Club 2021 Father Christmas Float Collection

Many thanks to all Residents of the Park who contributed to making last Christmas's Delamere Forest Father Christmas Float collection a great success.

Your generous contributions enabled a record collection of £2000 to be divided equally between our two charities, St Luke's and The Joshua Tree.

These contributions enable St Luke's to continue to support local people affected by life threatening illness and The Joshua Tree to provide educational, emotional and practical support to families affected by the impact of childhood cancers throughout Cheshire, the North West and North Wales.



Events Group



Since the last newsletter we are very pleased to have successfully hosted a Big Breakfast in addition to screening three films, all with a view to gently encouraging more social interaction on the Park after a rather difficult period.

In the coming weeks we intend to screen films on at least a monthly basis until summer, as well as considering other ideas for getting people together.

Details of our next Film Night are:

'The House of Gucci'
Thursday 17th March
in the Park Room - 19:30

The Events Group will keep you informed by email in the usual way and we all look forward to seeing you at future events.

The Events Group
email: events@delamerepark.co.uk

Coffee Mornings

It was good to welcome some more new faces to our Coffee Mornings. All are welcome, between 10.30 and 12.00 for a chat and a tea or coffee.

Future dates are :

- March 3rd (Thu) and 21st (Mon)
- April 7th (Thu)
- May 5th (Thu)
- June 2nd (Thu)



Maria and Paul
(889728)

Green Bin Collection

A reminder that for Residents who have subscribed to the new Garden Waste collection scheme, the date of the first collection is:

Wednesday 2nd March

Please remember to attach the sticker provided by CWAC to indicate you have paid for the service.

If you haven't yet subscribed but would like to, use the link below for more information or phone: 0300 123 7026

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/gardenpayment

Happy Easter



DPML Useful Contacts

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 10 am – 5 pm
email: office@delamerepark.co.uk
Tel: 01606 - 212523

Reception Hours:

Monday to Saturday 3 pm – 8 pm
Sunday 10 am – 8 pm
email: reception@delamerepark.co.uk
Tel: 01606 - 889263

Trustees:

email: trustees@delamerepark.co.uk

New – Zumba Group



You may be interested to learn that a Zumba class has started in recent weeks, under the supervision of a fully qualified instructor. Zumba is a fun way of keeping fit and lifting your mood, so, why not come along and join our friendly class? Beginners and those with more experience are most welcome.

The class meets in the Park Room, usually on Thursday evenings, at 19.00. A session lasts one hour and the cost is £5.00 per session.

For further details or if you have any questions please contact:

zumba@delamerepark.co.uk

Squirrels Pre-School



“Hello” from Squirrels Pre-school!

We have had a lovely half term since our Christmas break; we have been very busy with the children doing a variety of activities around our topics and celebrating Chinese New Year. We have done lots of crafts and yummy food tasting which the children very much enjoyed! We have had exciting deliveries of new toys, art/craft supplies and a new Tuff Tray.

We are also looking forward to planting lots of fruit and veg in our garden ready for the summer.

In March we will be celebrating ‘ World Book Day’ when the children can come to Pre-school dressed as their favourite book character, we will be looking at a wide, range of books which the children love to listen to and enjoy.

Our opening times are:

Mon – Fri 9 am – 3 pm (Term time)

Breakfast club 8.30 am – 9 am

After school club 3 pm – 3.30 pm

Priority will be given to children/grandchildren of DP Residents so please contact us on 01606 888782 and speak to Dawn or Michelle if you are interested in securing a place for your child in the Summer or Autumn Term 2022.

Garden Safari

Delamere Park Garden Club are planning to hold their annual Garden Safari in July, usually on a Sunday from 1:30 – 4:30 pm but we do need gardens to view. Please will you consider offering your garden for this annual charity event, which in the past has raised around £600. Garden owners will get the opportunity to choose which charities receive the proceeds.

Contact: garden@delamerepark.co.uk

or leave details at Reception, Fao: Mike McNeal.



Ladies’ Club News

Hasn’t it been great to be back together again, the Christmas Party, really enjoyable and the monthly meetings have all been well attended with brilliant and amusing speakers. Here’s to 2022!

14th March: Judith Walmsley OBE, was honoured for her work amongst the Homeless in Manchester. Why do people become homeless, is it by choice or misfortune? Do they need help, do they want help, how can we help? Not a light hearted subject, but Judith, a retired police officer, illustrates her talk with fascinating anecdotes and amusing descriptions of the colourful characters that she has met on the streets of Manchester. Not to be missed.

11th April: LEAGRAM is a creamy, organic Lancashire cheese made in a small family run dairy situated in the beautiful Trough of Bowland where they source their ingredients. Christine will demonstrate Cheese making and bring along samples for us to taste, enjoy and purchase. (Salivating already)?

9th May: BLOOD BIKES, not an alternative form of transport for Dracula, but a Charity working alongside the NHS to deliver bloods and other emergency supplies at speed, as and when they are needed. Helen Burley will tell us more. If you do have a spare Harley Davidson, a set of leathers and a helmet lurking in your garage, I am reliably informed that Blood Bikes are always looking for volunteers!!

SAVE THE DATE: 11th July, our Summer outing to Halfpenny Green Vineyard in Staffordshire, a winery tour, a tasting session, craft workshops, cafes and restaurants, good company, should be a good day out!! More details later.

Lots to interest and enjoy, always a warm welcome for new and existing members.

Please contact **Patsy Chuter on 889140** or email ladies@delamerepark.co.uk

Park PALs

At the end of November, some of us went to ‘Calendar Girls’ at the Grange Theatre.



Our Christmas tea was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Several members were persuaded to take part in an impromptu pantomime, where a fairy tale king was looking for a suitable bride.

Some of the candidates were distinctly unsuitable. This was great fun and caused much laughter.

In January we decided to have a Winter Warmer, a soup and sandwich lunch was organised with everyone contributing. After our meal we had two quizzes and an ode from our very own Bard.

Recently several members went to see ‘Jersey Boys’ in Manchester. Now that the Covid restrictions have been eased, people are much more relaxed.

Possible future outings are a visit to see the snowdrops at the Weeping Ash Gardens and a return visit to the Bluebell Café for an afternoon tea. A Games afternoon was also suggested.

On your own? Come and join us.

Contact: **Barbara 882533, Christine 301699 or Pam on 889665.**

Gardening Club

We have had a successful start to the New Year especially because we have had a number of new members joining. A full programme of speakers and visits have been published for the coming year.

Meetings for the next few months are:

28th March ‘Colour in the Spring Garden’ – Anne Harrison

25th April ‘Clematis for year round Colour in your Garden’ – Ken Black

23rd May Spring Visit

For more information, email: garden@delamerepark.co.uk

On a Sad Note

In December we were saddened to learn that Brian Hoyland had passed away.

Brian was our Gardening Club chairman from 1999 – 2013 and during that time achieved so much towards making Gardening Club such a successful and well supported group.

He will be remembered for his involvement in many aspects of Park Life and for giving so freely of his time.

After the Park fire in 2004 Brian managed to acquire a grant towards replanting the borders around the new Clubhouse and then formed a garden team from our membership to tend to the Clubhouse borders, he also led the team responsible for organising our Annual Craft & Produce Shows which ran successfully for 8 Years.

In addition, Brian organised some of the enjoyable Gardening Club holidays which many members benefited from

He was a wonderful neighbour always willing to lend a hand, especially with any garden projects which required real man power.

He will be sadly missed by all his friends and neighbours on the Park.

Mah Jongg



We are a rapidly expanding group with recent new members joining or about to join. If it continues like this, we will have to order more Mah Jongg sets!

Below are listed all the dates for the next few months should anyone choose to join us.

We meet at 1.30pm in the bar area on the following Thursdays:

March – 10th / 24th

April 14th

April 28th (Spring Lunch and Points Day competition)

May - 12th / 26th

Interested?

Contact: **Pam Taylor - 889665**

Water Aerobics



We meet in the pool every Wednesday, from 10.30 am to 11.30 am for fun and exercise to inspiring music. Our leader calls out the moves - so no worries there!

There’s a limit to the number we can take but we do have some free spaces left. So if you’ve not been along before, but would like to give it a try, then do come along - you’ll find a warm welcome!and there’s no need to be a swimmer - we keep well within our depth !

Sue (883756) or Liz (07864786568)

Delamere Park Clubs

Socializing and Leisure

- Arts & Crafts
- Ballroom Dancing
- Coffee Mornings
- Folk Club
- Gardening Club
- Indoor Bowls
- Ladies’ Club
- Mah Jongg
- PALs
- Social – Plot Draw
- Social – Quiz Night
- Whist

Health, Fitness & Wellbeing

- Children’s Swimming Lessons
- Exercise Class – PureStretch
- Squash - Men’s team
- Squash – Ladies’ team
- Squash – Junior Coaching
- Table Tennis
- Water Aerobics
- Yoga
- Zumba

For further details about any of the clubs or activities listed above, please contact Reception or check on the Delamere Park website: www.delamerepark.co.uk



Dear Residents, the newsletter gives us all the opportunity to communicate with each other. If you have anything you wish to include in the next newsletter (Summer) the deadline is Friday 13th May 2022.

Please contact Ella or Elizabeth via email to: news@delamerepark.co.uk